

to them. They arrived in Salt Lake City the 18th of December.

Julia was always pleasant and agreeable, but always took a firm stand for the right. She always detested back-biting and evil-speaking. She reared a large family and never had any trouble with a neighbor about her children. She was always at her post in the home and ready and willing to help those in need. During 18 months of sickness during which she was bedfast, there were never any complaints.

Children of David and Julia Ann were:
Eliza Van Wagenen, married Theophilis Epperson

David L. Van Wagenen, married Avis May Bronson

John F. Van Wagenen, married Eliza L. Smith

Wilford Van Wagenen, married Rachel Holfetz

Edwin Van Wagenen, married Alice Bronson

George V. Van Wagenen, married Katie Stark

Emily Van Wagenen, married David Murdoch

Alma Van Wagenen, married Birdie E. Gray

Lettie Van Wagenen, married George Bronson

Frank Van Wagenen died in infancy

Minnie Van Wagenen, married John Penrod

Lillie, twin to Lettie died in infancy.

EPHRIAM AND KATHRINE HAMILTON VAN WAGONER

Ephriam was the son of John Halmah and Clarissa Tappen. He was born December 22, 1847 at Honey Creek, Iowa, and crossed the plains with his parents in 1852 in the David Wood Company. They settled in Provo until 1861 when his parents moved to Heber Valley.

They lived in the lower settlement and the Fort String.

Ephriam helped care for the cattle and also took his turn guarding at the fort. He was active in his church work doing his part with the young men of his age. He went with others to the hills where he participated in logging and mining.

He married Kathrine Hamilton and to them were born two girls and one boy: Susie, Manerva and Delbert.

Ephriam did not have very good health here so he went to Carbon County. He lived at Wellington and drove a stage coach for a period of time.

His wife soon became ill and passed away. A short time later he also passed away, leaving their three small children to be cared for by relatives and friends.

JOHN HALMAH VAN WAGONER JR. AND CLARISSA TAPPEN VAN WAGONER



Son of Halmah I. Van Wagoner and Mary Van Houten Van Wagoner.

Born September 1, 1811, at Wanague, New Jersey.

Married Eliza Smith

Married Clarissa Tappen

Married Elizabeth Young in 1856

Married Agnes Melbrose

Married Zella Allen

Died September 1889 in Provo.

Eliza Smith, born September 10, 1815, in New Jersey. She died young, September 15, 1840.

Clarissa Tappen, daughter of George Tappen and Sarah Drew Tappen. Born November 24, 1824, in Pompton, New Jersey. Died January 1914, at Midway.

Elizabeth Young, married in 1856.

John Halmah, by trade, was a carpenter, cabinetmaker, mill wright, wheel wright, and skilled mechanic.

He married five women, and from these marriages had nineteen children.

Eliza died while her children were very young, leaving John to care for the children.

He met Clarissa Tappen in Pompton, New Jersey.

Clarissa and John Halmah were married by a Dutch Reform Minister by the name of Doolittle. After they came to Utah they had their endowments in Salt Lake.

They first heard Mormonism at a meet-

Midway Biographies

ing in Meads Basin near Pompton, New Jersey. They were baptized in 1842. Shortly after, they moved to Nauvoo.

While in Nauvoo, they helped in the activities of the Church. They were acquainted with the Prophet Joseph Smith and his wife, Emma. Clarissa visited in their home frequently.

Before leaving New Jersey they sold their property. They gave \$500.00 to the church as their contribution to help finance the immigrants.

They moved from Nauvoo to Winter Quarters in David Wood's Company.

They returned to Iowa to secure an outfit with which to continue the journey to Salt Lake valley. At Honey Creek, Iowa, he built a grist mill.

A daughter, Hester, became very ill and died. Her father made a casket of shingles and her mother made her clothes. With sad hearts they laid her to rest under a chestnut tree.

In the meantime, his father and mother who had accompanied them to Winter Quarters became ill with cholera and died. There were 600 of the Saints who died of the disease at that time. This was during the year 1847. John Halmah and his brother-in-law, Jno. Fairbanks made coffins from their wagon box and laid them to rest.

Before leaving new Jersey they sent many of their belongings with Samuel Brannon bound Cape Hope to San Francisco, California. With them was a small grist mill John Halmah had made. The goods were to be transported overland to Salt Lake. They never saw any of those things again.

Clarissa said that they were often very weary from traveling, but when the evening meal was over and the children were in bed they sang and danced. Her favorite song, "Come, Come, Ye Saints," gave them the courage that no other song did. It buoyed them up until the journey's end. They arrived in Salt Lake September 20, 1852.

In 1856 he married his third wife, Elizabeth Young. Seven children were born to them.

His fourth wife was Agnes Melbrose, and his fifth wife was Zella Allen. Neither of these wives had children.

John Halmah built flour mills at Fort Supply, Fort Bridger, at Payson for Charles B. Hancock, at Provo for Joseph Kelton (this was later known as the Tanner Mills), at Mt. Pleasant, and one at Midway.

In 1861 he moved his families to Midway to the lower settlement. It was here that he built the first grist mill in the county. He hauled the granite from American Fork, using two yokes of oxen. It was a long, slow journey with the heavy granite. He used a hammer and chisel to carve the mill wheel and make it round.

This same wheel is now on the top of the Daughters of the Pioneers monument in Midway.

They lived in the fort at Midway when the Indians became troublesome.

While living in Midway he helped build homes. At this time he paid one dollar and twenty cents a pound for nails. He built a home for President Hatch at Heber. He also made furniture for this home. He furnished his wives' homes with furniture he had made.

On several occasions he furnished oxen and wagons to bring immigrants from the Missouri River to Utah. He not only designed and made furniture but he built many wagons.

John Halmah and his sons, David, William and Henry, were musicians. John Halmah and David furnished music for dances in the early days. He made a musical instrument called the dulcimer.

He was a friend to the Indians. They would do anything for him. He was a kind, good father to his families, and was a good neighbor. He was a member of the High Priest Quorum and died faithful to the gospel.

Clarissa's home at first was a log room with an attic above. She had many mouths to feed but did this by cooking her meals on a griddle bake oven and by hanging kettles over a fireplace. Food was scarce, but the boys helped by catching fish.

She sewed and worked by candle light. Sewing was all done by hand.

With all the hardships she never complained. She was always jovial and happy. She had a strong testimony of the truthfulness of the gospel.

She taught the gospel to her children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren. She was a loving, kind mother and neighbor. She was hospitable and charitable.

Her mind was keen to the very last. She enjoyed living. She lived to be 90 years, two months and ten days old.

Children of John Halmah Van Wagoner and Eliza Smith:

HBW



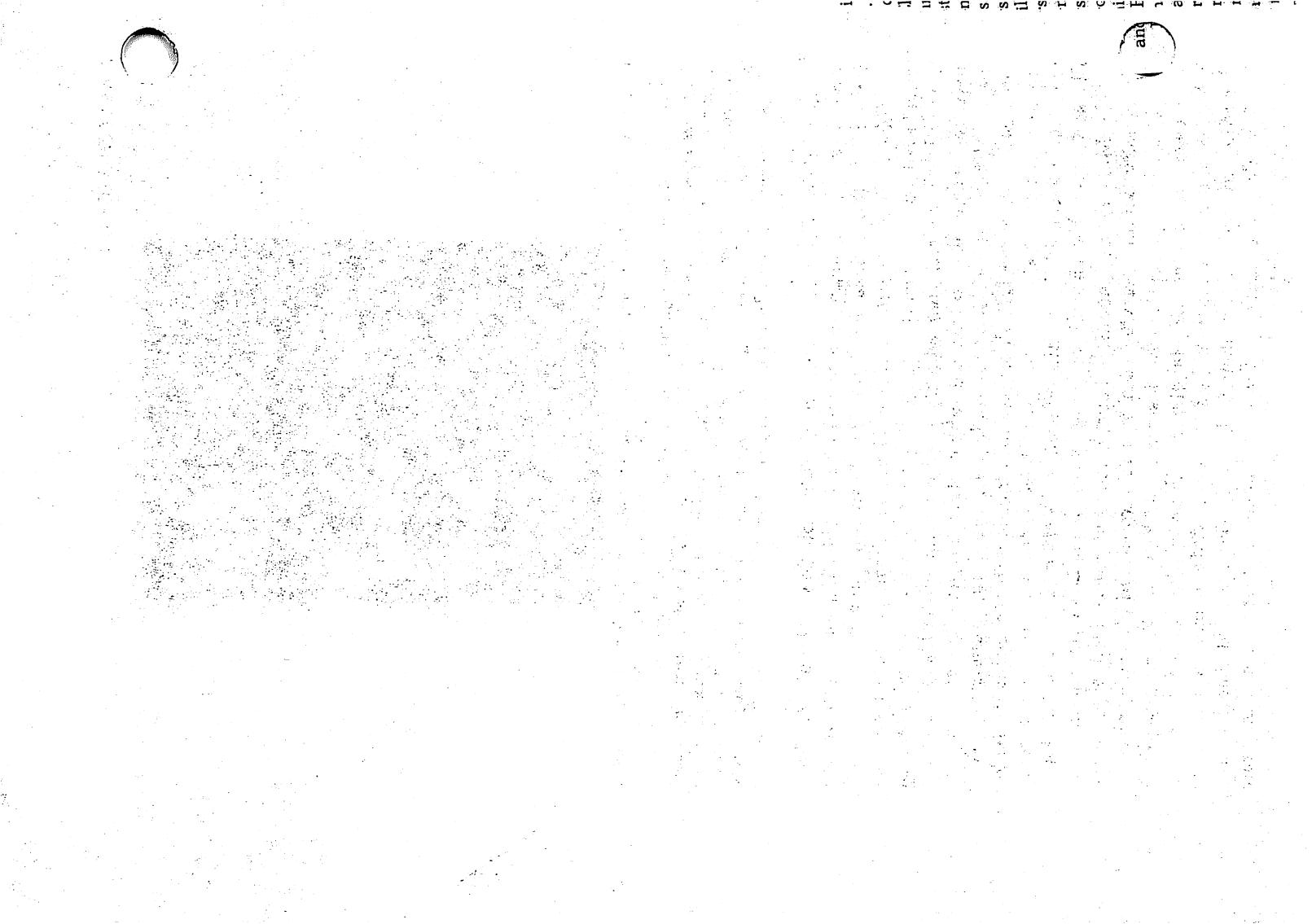
The Midway Fort Monument, Midway—The inscription reads: "Daughters of Utah Pioneers No. 59. Erected July 21, 1940. Midway Fort. When this valley was settled in 1859 two colonies were established on the West side of the Provo River. A lower and upper settlement, the latter called Mound City. In 1866 Indian depredations caused the formation of the Wasatch County Military District and brought the people of the two settlements together for security. About seventy-five families erected homes on this site. Sidney H. Epperson was the presiding elder. The location being midway between the two sites, by common usage became Midway."

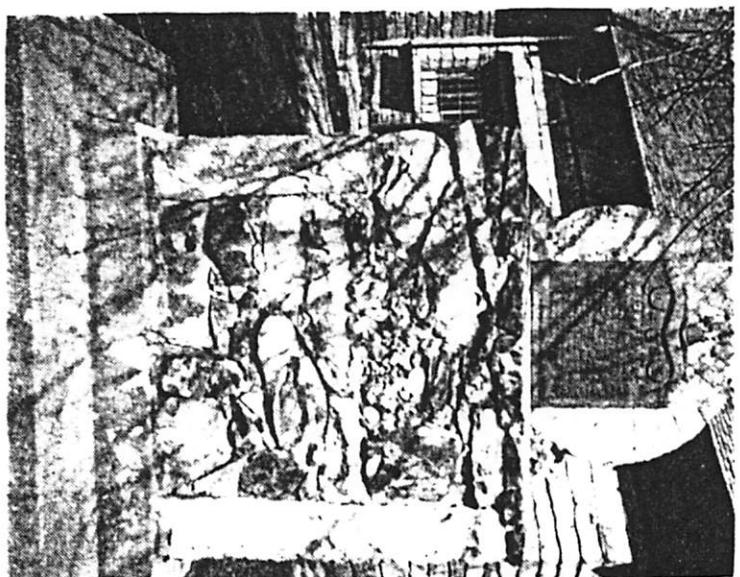
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The work of collecting pioneer relics and recognizing prominent historical events and landmarks has been uppermost in the minds of Wasatch County DUP leaders. Immediately after organization the Daughters were given the second floor of the old tithing office on Main Street as a relic room. When this building was sold, J. R. Murdock, president of Watch Stake, gave the Daughters an upstairs room in the Seminary building to house their relics. Those who have been in charge of the relics room have included Mrs. Ella Murdock Watson, Mrs. Martha Jones Lackley, Mrs. Florence Duke Johnson and Mrs. LaVern Fisher.

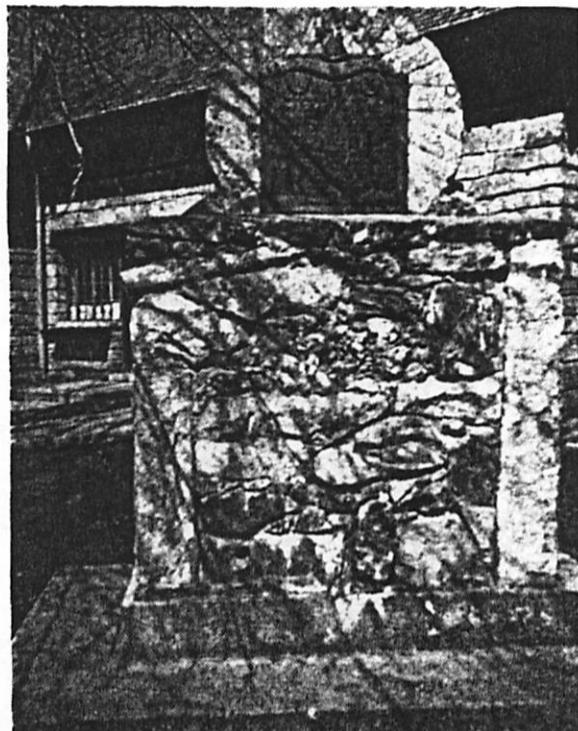
In Midway the Daughters have a beautifully decorated room in the Community Building, serving both as a relic room and a meeting place.

There are presently nine historical markers in the county which have been erected by the Daughters. Four of the monuments are in Midway, and commemorate Mrs. Cordelia Wilson, pioneer nurse; old Fort Midway and the first flour mill in the valley; the old lime kiln and the first pioneer cemetery. Two monuments in Heber commemorate





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